

MAHA LEGAL REPORT – SUMMER MEETING 2021

There is no pending legal proceeding against MAHA as of this date. We have responded as necessary to any issue that has either involved legal counsel or where a parent/participant threatened legal action. There is a lawsuit pending involving one local program and a former coach that we are monitoring.

COVID-19 related issues were the primary concerns this past season. We assisted the MAHA Executive Committee with COVID-19 related issues/government restrictions and expect that MAHA will need to address COVID-19 issues throughout the 2021-2022 season to some degree.

We worked with MAHA to address necessary bylaw changes to accommodate operation through a pandemic or other emergency circumstance. This will allow MAHA to operate more effectively in the coming years. Many organizations have also made governance changes as a result of the pandemic and found that improvements to technology have created more effective ways to meet and communicate.

SafeSport issues/complaints remain an issue to address at the local levels. MAHA and other affiliates continue to receive complaints that require mandatory reporting by volunteers/coaches. Some of these complaints involve conduct occurring many years ago, and we need to emphasize the need to report any inappropriate conduct to MAHA/USA Hockey so the conduct can be investigated accordingly.

We will continue to educate MAHA officials as to how to properly handle all complaints and report as required by federal law and USA Hockey. If there is any doubt about reporting responsibilities, please contact George, Rick or me immediately. It is important that MAHA report any required matters to the U.S. Center for SafeSport (“Center”) and handle other issues that are not within the jurisdiction of the Center appropriately.

I continue to serve on the USA Hockey Legal Council and look forward to continuing to positively contribute and bring our MAHA experiences to USA Hockey, and vice versa.

In the event anyone needs to contact me, I can be reached directly at sstapleton@clarkhill.com or 616-608-1145.